

makes it competitive in the world market: quality. It has continually improved productivity and product. In fact, the steel industry has invested nearly \$35 billion in steel plant modernization since 1995. The productivity of the American steel industry has improved 180 percent since 1980.

For the last few decades, we have world economies becoming more interdependent. Some job losses in the industry could not be avoided, but American steel regrouped and made itself competitive on the world marketplace. All the industry and workers asked in return was for a level playing field with foreign competitors, and that trade laws be enforced.

We all know this has not happened, particularly over the last five years. Subsidized foreign steel from Russia, China, Japan, and Brazil has been dumped into the United States at prices so low that there is no way the unsubsidized American steel industry can compete. Last year, steel import levels were 83 percent higher than the annual import average for the last eight years.

Hopefully the playing field will soon be leveled, as it must be. On October 22, the International Trade Commission voted that imports have been a substantial cause of serious injury to the U.S. steel industry in affirmative decisions covering nearly 80 percent of total import tonnage. The decision was a significant step that set the stage to provide a temporary period of strong, effective steel import relief. Such relief would provide a period of time to allow U.S. steel producers to recover and to address long-term structural problems in the U.S. and global steel sector.

It is now up to the President to determine what measures will be taken. The Congressional Steel Caucus, of which I am a proud member, has pressed the President to implement real, meaningful sanctions. On December 7, the ITC voted remedy recommendations; 5 of 6 Commissioners voted for four years of tariffs ranging from 20% to 40% on major categories of finished carbon and alloy steel imports. The President will make his decision March 6. Words alone will not suffice. I have already weighed in with the White House on this matter, and have sent the President—along with my colleagues in the steel caucus—three letters in the past week alone.

High tariffs for four years—at or near the 40 percent advocated by the industry and proposed by two Republican ITC Commissioners—are essential if the industry is to recover. Experts have projected that the industry needs to invest \$7-9 billion over the next four years to stay competitive and adjust to import competition. This can only happen with the near-term price relief and market stabilization that would come from significant tariffs. Substantial tariffs will do the following: have immediate but modest price effects; allow domestic producers to significantly increase sales quantities; provide certainty in the market; will distort trade less than quantitative measures; and, allow the industry to generate the revenue needed for investments.

Inadequate tariffs, such as the 20 percent recommended by the ITC plurality, will likely be absorbed and will have little or no effect in the market. So-called "tariff rate quotas," which apply an additional duty only after a certain volume of imports comes in at low or zero duty rates, will provide no benefits and might well be worse than nothing at all. Relief on slab is also critical. Without an effective rem-

edy on slab, the pressure for domestic producers to shut down their hot-ends and stop making steel will be unstoppable.

Regardless of the President's decision, Congress' job is not finished. We must examine other ways to assist the steel industry, including addressing the problem associated with legacy costs. If nothing is done, and the federal government does not intervene, 600,000 retirees will lose their hard-earned health care benefits.

I implore my colleagues to join me in urging the President to enforce our trade laws, follow the recommendations of the ITC, and stand up for American industry and American workers. Now is the time to level the playing field and end illegal foreign steel dumping, and save the American steel industry.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BONIOR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MCKINNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GANSKE, for 5 minutes, March 6.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAYNE, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1892. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the acceptance of an affidavit of support from another eligible sponsor if the original sponsor has died and the Attorney General has determined for humanitarian reasons that the original sponsor's classification petition should not be revoked.

H.R. 3699. An act to revise certain grants for continuum of care assistance for homeless individual and families.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reports that on February 27, 2002 he pre-

sented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 2998. To authorize the establishment of Radio Free Afghanistan.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ENGLISH. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 28, 2002, at 10 a.m.

OATH OF OFFICE

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 107th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

Honorable JOHN SULLIVAN, 1st Oklahoma.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5647. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Change in Disease Status of Slovakia and Slovenia Because of BSE [Docket No. 01-122-1] received February 22, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5648. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Change in Disease Status of Japan With Regard to Foot-and-Mouth Disease [Docket No. 01-010-2] received February 22, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5649. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Change in Disease Status of Greece Because of BSE [Docket No. 01-065-1] received February 22, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

5650. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health